

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 313,
SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC
WORKS WEEK

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I introduce H. Res. 313, supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes. National Public Works Week is celebrated for a full week each May to celebrate our public works professionals and the important work that they do to keep our country running smoothly.

May 17 through May 23, 2009 will recognize the many duties that public works professionals—those who design, build, operate, maintain and protect transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities—perform to enhance communities and our nation.

Public works keep our society functioning: providing buildings that house vital government offices, and giving our country rail, highways, airports, and public transit to move goods and passengers.

Similarly, public works help maintain public health: providing systems for waste and sewage disposal, while supplying us with crucial water for our homes, businesses, and agriculture. Pipelines safely transport natural gas and hazardous liquids through 2,300,000 miles of pipelines throughout the country.

Many people take for granted our public works, recognizing their importance only when problems are encountered. When water supply is not efficient, when infrastructure crumbles, and when accidents in moving transportation occur, we are then forced to reflect on what needs to be invested in the larger public works sector of our economy.

The “2006 Status of the Nation’s Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance” report by the Department of Transportation confirms that investment in the Nation’s highway, bridge, and transit infrastructure has not kept up with the growing demands of the system.

The 111th Congress has worked to aggressively address our critical transportation and infrastructure needs. In February, Congress enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111–5) (“Recovery Act”), which provides \$64.1 billion of infrastructure investment to enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of our highway, transit, rail, aviation, environmental, inland waterways, public buildings, and maritime transportation infrastructure. The \$64.1 billion of Federal transportation and infrastructure investment will create or sustain more than 1.8 million jobs and \$323 billion of economic activity.

In addition, in March, the House passed H.R. 1262, the “Water Quality Investment Act of 2009”. H.R. 1262 significantly increases funding for capitalization grants to States for state water pollution control revolving funds, grants for alternative water source projects to meet critical water supply needs, grants to municipalities and States to control combined

sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows, and grants for projects to remediate contaminated sediment in the Great Lakes areas of concern. The bill also provides a uniform, national standard for monitoring, reporting, and public notification of municipal combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows.

I strongly support investment in our Nation’s infrastructure, as well as the men and women who keep our public works, quite simply, working.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL F.
JAGGARD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael F. Jaggard, Captain, USN (RET), who is retiring after more than 41 years of faithful service to our Nation, as both a military officer and career civilian employee. He has offered selfless dedication to which we are all grateful.

In 1967, Mr. Jaggard began his federal career in the United States Army as an Infantryman, serving with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam from January 1968 to January 1969. Upon his release from active duty, Mr. Jaggard returned to civilian life and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&I University in 1971.

Mr. Jaggard continued his government service by enlisting in the United States Navy in 1973. Upon graduating from Officer Candidate School and until 1977, he served as the Supply Officer aboard the USS *Will Rogers* (SSBN 659). He subsequently worked as an instructor at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia, and in 1979 he served as Assistant Supply Officer aboard the USS *Emory S. Land*. Upon completion of that tour in 1981, he attended the Navy Postgraduate School where he earned a Masters of Science in Management degree.

After graduate school, Mr. Jaggard became a Principal Contracting Officer at the Naval Sea Systems Command for four years. From 1986 through 2001, he continued his federal career completing many successful tours in the Navy, assuming various leadership roles that have taken him across the world. He served as the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of the Naval Regional Contracting Center, Philadelphia; Submarine Supply Support Officer to the Commander Submarine Force, US; Supply Officer aboard the USS *Orion* home ported in La Maddalena, Italy; Commander, Defense Contract Management Command, United Kingdom; and Deputy Commander for Contracts at the Naval Sea Systems Command.

On October 1, 2001, Mr. Jaggard retired from the Navy as a Captain. Upon retirement he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in the civilian ranks and served as the Chief of Staff/Policy to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition & Logistics Management in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. He has been taking on

the challenges of military acquisition and procurement ever since.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Mr. Mike Jaggard that our nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank him and his family for his long and honorable service to our nation. On behalf of the citizens of Virginia’s Eighth Congressional District, I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished career.

A TRIBUTE TO HEARTLAND
HONOR FLIGHT ORGANIZERS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to four of my constituents who have touched the hearts of countless members of the “Greatest Generation” and their families.

Bill and Evonne Williams and John and Connie Liebsack organized the Heartland Honor Flight program a few years ago. Since 2008, in conjunction with the Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars, five separate flights of nearly 750 World War II veterans have been brought to Washington, D.C. to visit the two Jima Memorial in Arlington and the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. By the end of this April, another 750 veterans will have made an Honor Flight visit to Washington, and there are still veterans on a waiting list.

These men and women, most of who are seeing the World War II Memorial for the first time, are often moved to tears as they recall their war time experiences in Europe and the South Pacific and the comrades they knew who sacrificed for our liberty and freedom. Many of them, for the first time, open up to their loved ones about how their service to our Nation has affected them and their lives all these years.

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that this undertaking is entirely underwritten by private donations. Airfare, meals, and medical assistance are provided free to these veterans—nearly \$1 million has been raised so far. Across America, we lose more than 1,000 WWII veterans each day so it is vital those who are still among us have an opportunity to visit the Memorial. The Honor Flight network has the goal to bring 25,000 WWII veterans to the Memorial in 2009. How has this been accomplished? Through the hard work, dedication and compassion of people like Bill and Evonne Williams and John and Connie Liebsack.

It is an honor for me to come to this floor and pay tribute to Bill, Evonne, John and Connie and the many other volunteers from Nebraska who have gone the extra mile to fulfill the dreams of WWII veterans. I congratulate them on their achievements and I call on all of my colleagues to offer them encouragement and support as they continue to bring as many veterans as possible to Washington in the coming months.